10.74) NITED STATES DEPARTME OF THE INTERIOR FOR NPS ULL ONLY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RECEIVED NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM DATE ENTERED SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME HISTORIC Perdue, C. A., House AND/OR COMMON LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 422 West Eighth Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Beloit No. 1 Keith Sebelius VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE STATE CODE Kansas 67420 20 123 Mitchell BICLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE DISTRICT PUBLIC X.OCCUPIED ..MUSEUM ... AGRICULTURE XBUILDING(S) XPRIVATE UNOCCUPIED STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS XPRIVATE : SIDENCE __SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE RELIGIOUS __OBJECTIN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED __BEING CONSIDERED INDUSTRIAL XNO STATE MILITARY JOWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Margaret H. Hanni STREET & NUMBER 422 West Eighth Street STATE Beloit Kansas 67420 BILOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds STREET & NUMBER Mitchell County Courthouse CITY, TOWN STATE Beloit Kansas 67420 3 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE

FEDERAL

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

LOCAL

None

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS CITY, TOWN

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PERIOD __COMMUNITY PLANNING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION __PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __LAW CONSERVATION __SCIENCE __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC 1400-1499 __LITERATURE __ECONOMICS __SCULPTURE __1500-1599 __AGRICULTURE __MILITARY _XARCHITECTURE __EDUCATION SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __1600-1699 __MUSIC __THEATER __1700-1799 __ART __ENGINEERING __PHILOSOPHY __TRANSPORTATION __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT X.1800-1899 __COMMERCE X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT __OTHER (SPECIFY) 1900-__COMMUNICATIONS __INDUSTRY INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES 1874, 1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The C. A. Perdue house at the northwest edge of Beloit is one of the oldest native limestone houses in the city and its occupants, the Perdue family, had a significant role in the development of the community.

The property was first deeded to Charles H. Morrill in 1872 under the Homestead Act. A two-story, two-room house was constructed around 1874. On January 29, 1879, Dr. C. A. Perdue purchased the house and surrounding acres from David and Mary Scott.

Charles Atkinson Perdue had earlier been a physician and postmaster in Ohio. In 1861 he responded to a call for volunteer surgeons and served at Camp Chase, Tripler Hospital, near Columbus until the end of the Civil War. After the war he gave up the practice of medicine and lived for a number of years on a farm near Grinnell, Iowa. In 1872 he was one of the principals of the "Southern Iowa Coal Company" which successfully carried on coal mining operations for a number of years before selling out. His son, William Channing Perdue, came first to Beloit in 1878. The parents soon followed, and in late June, 1879, the Beloit Courier reported that the Perdues had disposed of their property in Iowa and would become permanent residents of Beloit. Dr. C. A. Perdue never practiced medicine in Beloit, living more or less the life of a retired gentleman. He invested in a number of businesses and buildings, including the local opera house.

Dr. Perdue had purchased the Scott property early in 1879. The Nov. 6, 1879, issue of the <u>Courier</u> referred to a list of improvements recently completed or underway in the community. Included was the large ten room addition Dr. Perdue built at a cost of \$4,000. Both Perdue and his wife had a considerable interest in horticulture and apparently spent much time and money on fruit and shade trees and other plantings. (His obituary noted, "The trees he planted are a lasting testimony to his industry.")

Mrs. Perdue died in 1886 and he in 1899. The house became the property of William Channing Perdue. The younger Perdue was quite active in local and area politics. He was the Beloit postmaster during the Harrison administration and then county clerk from 1894 to 1896. He was again appointed postmaster during the McKinley administration and served until 1914 with the exception of one four-year term when he was assistant postmaster. He was much involved in the county and district Republican politics until poor health compelled his retirement. The W. C. Perdues were prominent in the social life of the small town of Beloit and their house was the center of many social events. After the death of W. C. Perdue in 1921, his widow, Mrs. Jane Perdue, operated a tea room in the house for a number of years. The current owner acquired the property from Mrs. Perdue's niece in 1955 and has restored much of the house.

The C. A. Perdue house is one of the landmark houses of Beloit and is one of the oldest houses in the community. It is worthy of National Register nomination because it is an early, well constructed and handsome building in which the aesthetic and structural properties of the native post rock have been sensitively exploited.



__EXCELLENT

XGOOD

__FAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS

UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED

ZORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The earliest part of the C. A. Perdue residence in Beloit was a two room native limestone structure built in 1874. Shortly after buying the property in 1879 Dr. Perdue had a two story, ten room addition built on to the south face of the original structure. The new addition was constructed of dressed native limestone (post rock) and its design has been influenced by the Romano-Tuscan mode of the Renaissance revival style.

Post rock is a common name for the native limestone which derives from the extensive use the early settlers made of the stone for fence posts. The stone has a creamy-buff color with a brown streaked layer somewhere near the center. Post rock is usually found just below the topsoil in a three million acre area in north central Kansas. The fact that the stone is soft when freshly quarried and hardens after being

exposed to the air makes it an excellent and commonly used building material.

The main facade which faces south has a wide projecting central wing. The main entrance has been placed on the east side of this wing. Aligned above the doorway on the second story is a double-hung, round headed window. The window has a stone sill and a carved arched stone lintel with a keystone. This detailing has been repeated on most windows in the building. There are two other aligned windows on this projecting wing to the west of the doorway. The facade is set back on either side of the wing. A single doorway with a window above has been centered on each side. A one story porch wraps around the entire south facade. The porch has been elevated on a limestone foundation and has a wood floor. Although this porch appears in a 1912 photograph, it does not seem to be original because of its detailing and the way its roof line cuts across the stone arch above the door on the east side of the main facade. The corners of the building have been treated with vermiculated quoins.

Both the east and west facades have details similar to the main facade with a centered window on each floor. There is a bay window on the first story of the east

facade.

The original structure is now a two story wing that is attached to the eastern side of the north facade. Its roofline is lower and the apertures have flat arches. The corners have been treated with vermiculated quoins. A single doorway with a transom and a rectangular window above have been centered on the eastern face of this structure. A modern, concrete block, single car garage has been attached to the

north side of the original building.

In the 1880's the house stood on a large tract of land at the northwestern edge of Beloit. Both Dr. and Mrs. Perdue were considered fine botanists and the home was surrounded by many plants and trees. Much of the land has been sold and the house now stands on a one acre lot bounded on two sides by highway K-14, but there are still many fine old trees and plantings on the property. In 1970 a stone wall was constructed on the south, east and west property lines. Later, through pictorial evidence, it was discovered that a stone wall had existed there earlier. The home has been renovated by its present owner, and the property does appear much as it did when it was the Perdues' residence.

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